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10/12/2001

Leilei Song

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07/05/2006

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EXAMINER

TORRES, JOSEPH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2133

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,731

Applicant(s)

SONG, LEILEI

Examiner

Joseph D. Torres

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 25 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 7-10, 25 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 05/15/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant contends, "Regarding the written description requirement, the Examiner asserts that "nowhere in the specification does the Applicant teach 'wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode' and in particular, the Applicant never mentions 'operating mode' much less 'normal operating mode' anywhere in the specification."

Applicant notes that the present disclosure teaches that the reduced power mode consumes less power relative to a normal operating mode: on, for example, page 2; lines 9-28, and page 13, line 13, to page 17, line 11. A person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize that power is measured per unit of time. For example, a "watt" is defined as "an International System unit of power equal to one joule per second." (See, dictionary.com; emphasis added.)

Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand that one mode can "consume less power in a given interval of time" than another mode. Applicant also notes that, in the context of the present invention, a person of ordinary skill in the art would recognize the meaning of the terms "operating mode" and "normal operating mode." Thus, in light of the present specification, a person of ordinary skill in the art

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would understand the meaning of the phrase "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode."

The Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would not find where the Applicant teaches 'wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode' in any part of the Applicant's specification. There is nothing in the Application that teaches what a normal operating mode is and how it distinguishes itself from the multitude of other modes taught in the Applicant's specification such as "low power mode" in lines 12-13 on page 14; "Opcode 3" mode in line 19 on page 14; "Opcode 0" mode in line 3 on page 15; or any of the following four modes in lines 1-5 on page 25 of the Applicant's disclosure: (1) decoder enable (i.e., decode and carry out error correction); (2) monitoring mode (i.e., decode, calculate error information without error correction); (3) decoder disabled and output incoming data after decoder-latency delay mode; and (4) decoder disabled and output incoming data without delay mode.

The Examiner asserts that the language "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode" was introduced in the amendment filed 12/22/2005 without any regard to what is taught in the Applicant's specification for the sole purpose of introducing new language to overcome Prior Art rejections. In the Applicant's current response the Applicant now suggests that support for the amended language can be found somewhere in page 2; lines 9-28, and page 13, line 13, to page 17, line 11, but does not say what the support

is nor does the Applicant show how any language in the cited pages provides support for the language.

The Applicant contends, "Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the cited claims are definite since they specifically recite the two modes (reduced power mode and normal operating mode) and recite how the reduced power mode compares to a normal operating mode, i.e., the reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to (than) a normal operating mode".

The Examiner disagrees and asserts that there is nothing in the specification or the claim to even distinguish "reduced power mode" from "normal operating mode". There is nothing in the Application that teaches what a normal operating mode is and how it distinguishes itself from the multitude of other modes taught in the Applicant's specification such as "low power mode" in lines 12-13 on page 14; "Opcode 3" mode in line 19 on page 14; "Opcode 0" mode in line 3 on page 15; or any of the following four modes in lines 1-5 on page 25 of the Applicant's disclosure: (1) decoder enable (i.e., decode and carry out error correction); (2) monitoring mode (i.e., decode, calculate error information without error correction); (3) decoder disabled and output incoming data after decoder-latency delay mode; and (4) decoder disabled and output incoming data without delay mode. The amended language filed 12/22/2005 is contrived for the sole purpose of overcoming Prior Art rejections without any regard to what is taught in the Applicant's specification.

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The Applicant contends, "Regarding the Examiner's rejection of the cited claims as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps, the Examiner asserts that the omitted elements are: the relationship between "given interval of time" and "normal operating mode;" and the relationship between "reduced power mode" and "given interval of time."

Applicant notes that the relationships between operational modes (e.g., a normal operating mode and a reduced power mode) and an interval of time are inherent relationships, i.e., each mode inherently operates over an interval of time, and inherently consumes a certain amount of power per unit of time, as would be apparent to a person of ordinary skill in the art".

If the Applicant believes the language is inherent then the language should be removed from the claim since it fails to add a meaningful limitation.

The Applicant contends, "Applicant notes that, as the Examiner acknowledges, Noguchi teaches that error correction is terminated to reduce power consumption (see, cot. 3, lines 12-25; cot. 5, lines 54-62; cot. 9, lines 18-40 and 54-60). Noguchi teaches, for example, that,

further, the clock signal which is supplied to the data error correction device is stopped during a period after the error correction processing is terminated when the decoding has been repeated less than the predetermined number of times, till the iterative decoding for the next data is started. Therefore, the power consumption in the data error correction device can be further reduced. (Col. 9, lines 54-60; emphasis added.)

Noguchi teaches to terminate error correction and, as a result, reduces power consumption; the present disclosure teaches to perform error correction in a reduced

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power mode. The specific language of cot. 9, lines 54-60, controls over the general language cited by the Examiner at cot. 4, lines 61-67. Thus, a person of ordinary skill in the art would understand

Noguchi as teaching to terminate error correction to reduce power consumption. The present disclosure teaches to perform error correction in a reduced power mode. Independent claims 1, 25, and 16 require that the reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode. Support for this amendment can be found on page 2, lines 15-18; page 13, lines 13-17; page 14, lines 12-18; page 15, lines 23-27; and page 21, lines 17-30, of the originally filed specification".

Noguchi teaches exactly what Noguchi says in the recited excerpt "the clock signal which is supplied to the data error correction device is stopped during a period after the error correction processing is terminated to reduce power consumption". Noguchi teaches that the clock signal is stopped during a period after the error correction processing is terminated. Furthermore; in the same excerpt, Noguchi explicitly teaches that the clock remains stopped until the iterative decoding for the next data is started. Col. 3, lines 16-20 in Noguchi explicitly teaches "correct termination judgement means 34 judges that all errors in the data are corrected, and outputs the judgement result that the correction is to be terminated to the control means 35. The control means 35 controls the syndrome calculation means 31 and the like, to execute the iterative decoding for data which are to be subjected to the error correction processing next, without interruption" [Emphasis Added]. That is, error correction processing of

a current codeword is stopped and error correction processing of the next codeword begins without interruption. The Examiner asserts the error correction processing of the next codeword cannot take place if the error correction device is turned off. Noguchi teaches in the Noguchi patent exactly what the Abstract in Noguchi states, "the number of times of the iterative decoding can be reduced with ensuring the reliability of data as in the case where the data are corrected the maximum number of times, thereby realizing the reduced power consumption in the error correction processing". That is, Noguchi teaches reducing power consumption in an iterative error correction decoder by reducing the number of iterations in the iterative error correction decoder from a maximum number of iterations that would normally take place, if the power reduction algorithm in Noguchi were not implemented, while operating the iterative error correction decoder, without interruption, so that the iterative error correction decoder can continually correct a next codeword immediately after terminating error correction for a current codeword.

The Applicant contends, "Noguchi and Cameron, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest providing a plurality of intermediate polynomials, and wherein the step of reducing power consumption in the error correction system when the actual number of errors is less than the maximum error correction capability further comprises the step of determining if a degree of at least one of the intermediate polynomials is less than a predetermined degree, as required by claim 3".

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The Examiner disagrees and asserts that the Abstract in Cameron teaches that the test for uncorrectable errors comprises determining if the degree of the Error Locator Polynomial $\Lambda(x)$ and the degree of the Error Magnitude Polynomial $\Omega(x)$ are less than predetermined values. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have known that the Error Locator Polynomial $\Lambda(x)$ and the degree of the Error Magnitude Polynomial $\Omega(x)$ are intermediate polynomials and uncorrectable errors are a result of exceeding the maximum error correction capability of a code.

The Applicant contends that Noguchi and Cameron, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest "wherein one intermediate polynomial is a first error evaluator polynomial $R(x)$, wherein one intermediate polynomial is a first error locator polynomial $F(x)$, wherein $R^{(r+1)}(x) = F^{(r+1)}(x) \cdot S(x) \bmod x^{2t}$ wherein r is a number of iterations, $S(x)$ is a syndrome polynomial, and t is a number of errors capable of being corrected, wherein one intermediate polynomial is a second error evaluator polynomial $Q(x)$, wherein one intermediate polynomial is a second error locator polynomial $G(x)$, wherein $Q^{(r+1)}(x) = G^{(r+1)}(x) \cdot S(x) \bmod x^{2t}$, wherein the step of determining if a degree of at least one of the intermediate polynomials is less than a predetermined degree further comprises the step of determining if a degree of either $R(x)$ or $Q(x)$ is less than a predetermined degree, wherein $R(x)$ and $F(x)$ are valid when a degree of $R(x)$ is less than the predetermined degree, and wherein $Q(x)$ and $G(x)$ are valid when a degree of $Q(x)$ is less than the predetermined degree, as required by claim 4".

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The Examiner disagrees and asserts that even the Applicant acknowledges on page 11 of the Applicant's disclosure that the equations in claim 4 are equations specified by the Modified Euclidean Algorithm. The Modified Euclidean Algorithm is not the Applicant's invention just as the equations of claim 4 are not the Applicant's invention.

The Applicant contends, "Noguchi and Cameron, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest determining a plurality of syndromes; determining if all of the syndromes have a predetermined value; and reducing power consumption of the decoder of the error correction system when all of the syndromes have the predetermined value, as required by claim 7".

The Examiner disagrees and asserts that Figure 2 in Noguchi teaches that whenever $SYN(B1)=0$ and $UNC(A1)=0$, correction is terminated thereby reducing power. Note: one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that $SYN(B1)$ can only equal zero when all of the syndromes of the codeword B1 equal the predetermined value of zero.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 (as copied from the Previous Office Action)

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

2. Claims 1-10, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject

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matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 1, 25 and 26 recite "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode". Nowhere in the specification does the Applicant teach "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode" and in particular, the Applicant never mentions "operating mode" much less "normal operating mode" anywhere in the specification.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-10, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 25 and 26 recite "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode".

The term "relative to" is a relative term which renders the claims indefinite. The term "relative to" is not defined by the claim, the specification does not provide a standard for ascertaining the requisite degree, and one of ordinary skill in the art would not be reasonably apprised of the scope of the invention.

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Claims 1, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the elements. See MPEP § 2172.01. Claims 1, 25 and 26 recite "wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode". The omitted elements are: the relationship between "given interval of time" and "normal operating mode". The omitted elements are: the relationship between "reduced power mode" and "given interval of time".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 (as copied from the Previous Office Action)

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 2, 7, 8, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Noguchi; Nobuaki (US 6611939 B1).

35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 1, 25 and 26.

Noguchi teaches determining if an actual number of errors is less than a maximum error correction capability (Figure 2 in Noguchi teaches determining if uncorrectable errors exist and flagging the uncorrectable errors with flags, UNC(A1), UNC(B1), UNC(A2) &

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UNC(B2), i.e., if $\text{UNC}(A1)=0$ there are no uncorrectable errors with respect to the A1 decoding and the actual numbers are below the maximum error correction capability of the A1 decoding, if $\text{UNC}(B1)=0$ there are no uncorrectable errors with respect to the B1 decoding and the actual numbers are below the maximum error correction capability of the B1 decoding, if $\text{UNC}(A2)=0$ there are no uncorrectable errors with respect to the A2 decoding and the actual numbers are below the maximum error correction capability of the A2 decoding & if $\text{UNC}(B2)=0$ there are no uncorrectable errors with respect to the B2 decoding and the actual numbers are below the maximum error correction capability of the B2 decoding); and performing error correction in a reduced power mode in a decoder of the error correction system when the actual number of errors is less than the maximum error correction capability (Step S3 in Figure 2 of Noguchi teaches that when $\text{UNC}(A1)=0$, i.e., the actual numbers are below the maximum error correction capability of the A1 decoding correction is terminated; Note: the abstract in Noguchi teaches that error correction is terminated to reduce power consumption; hence Noguchi teaches performing error correction in a reduced power mode in a decoder of the error correction system when the actual number of errors is less than the maximum error correction capability, that is; when $\text{UNC}(A1)=0$; **Note also that Figure 2 in Noguchi is an error correction algorithm for an error correction process and that the termination routine taught in Noguchi is incorporated into the error correction process as a part of the error correction process that is the error correction process taught in Noguchi is a reduced power error correction process whereby error correction is explicitly performed in a reduced power mode in the decoder**

of the error correction system used for implementing the reduced power error correction process taught in Noguchi when the actual number of errors is less than the maximum error correction capability), wherein said reduced power mode consumes less power in a given interval of time relative to a normal operating mode (Figure 1 in Noguchi is a data correction device capable of terminating operations to conserve power when error correction is not needed, Data Error Correction Device 20 receives input data codewords to determine error locations and error values of erroneous data codewords that are provided to a data processing device for the purposes of correcting and decoding erroneous data codewords and does not implement any type of error correction or decoding of data codewords itself; that is, nowhere does Noguchi teach any output from the Data Error Correction Device 20 that would alter the timing or clocking of any other device so one can only assume that codewords are processed and decoded in another device separate from the Data Error Correction Device 20 without altering the normal timing of the decoding process in any other device necessary for error correction; Noguchi only teaches a means for saving power in on component, the Data Error Correction Device 20 in Figure 1 of Noguchi, and does not teach anywhere in the Noguchi patent the alteration of normal timing in any other device associated with error correction).

35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claim 2.

See col. 10, lines 36-44 in Noguchi. Note: The Authoritative Dictionary of IEEE Standards Terms defines gating as the application of inhibiting pulses during part of a

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cycle of equipment operation; hence stopping a clock as taught in col. 10, lines 36-44 of Noguchi is a means for gating.

35 U.S.C. 102(e) rejection of claims 7 and 8.

Col. 7, lines 1-5 in Noguchi teaches that SYN(A1), SYN(B1), SYN(A2) & SYN(B2) are flags and are set to 0 if all the syndromes for the respective decodings are zero.

Syndrome calculation means 11 in Figure 1 of Noguchi is a means for determining a number of syndromes. Flagging the B1 decoding using the SYN(B1) flag is a means for determining if all the syndromes have the predetermined value of zero or not. Figure 2 in Noguchi teaches that whenever SYN(B1)=0 and UNC(A1)=0, correction is terminated thereby reducing power. **Note: one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that SYN(B1) can only equal zero when all of the syndromes of the codeword B1 equal the predetermined value of zero.**

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103 (as copied from the Previous Office Action)

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

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1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 3, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi; Nobuaki (US 6611939 B1) in view of Cameron; Kelly (US 5099482 A).

35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 3 and 9.

Noguchi substantially teaches the claimed invention described in claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 (as rejected above).

However Noguchi does not explicitly teach the specific use of the particular elements of a decoder for Reed-Solomon codes nor does Noguchi teach how an uncorrectable error is determined.

Cameron, in an analogous art, teaches use of the particular elements of a decoder for Reed-Solomon codes and how an uncorrectable error is determined from intermediate polynomials (Note: the Abstract in Cameron teaches that the test for uncorrectable errors comprises determining if the degree of the Error Locator Polynomial $4(x)$ and the degree of the Error Magnitude Polynomial $A(x)$ are less than predetermined values).

Note: Noguchi teaches general syndrome based error correction codes, which include Reed-Solomon codes whereas Cameron explicitly focuses on a specific type of syndrome based code, i.e., Reed-Solomon codes. Note: one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been highly motivated to use a Reed-

Solomon code since Reed-Solomon codes form the core of the most powerful known algebraic codes.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Noguchi with the teachings of Cameron by including use of the particular elements of a decoder for Reed-Solomon codes. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, because one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that use of the particular elements of a decoder for Reed-Solomon codes would have provided the opportunity for using one of the most powerful known algebraic codes.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 10.

If the Syndromes are not all zero, error correction circuitry is enabled to correct errors. Calculating error polynomials is a required step for decoding Reed-Solomon codes.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noguchi; Nobuaki (US 6611939 B1) and Cameron; Kelly (US 5099482 A) in view of Oh; Kyu-taeg et al. (US 6256763 B1, hereafter referred to as Oh).

35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 4.

Noguchi and Cameron substantially teaches the claimed invention described in claims 1-3 (as rejected above).

However Noguchi and Cameron do not explicitly teach the specific use of the modified Euclidean Algorithm.

Oh, in an analogous art, teaches use of the modified Euclidean Algorithm (Figure 1 in Oh).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Noguchi and Cameron with the teachings of Oh by including use of the modified Euclidean Algorithm. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, because one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that use of the modified Euclidean Algorithm would have provided power consumption reduction and complexity reduction aspects.

Allowable Subject Matter (as copied from the Previous Office Action)

7. Claims 5 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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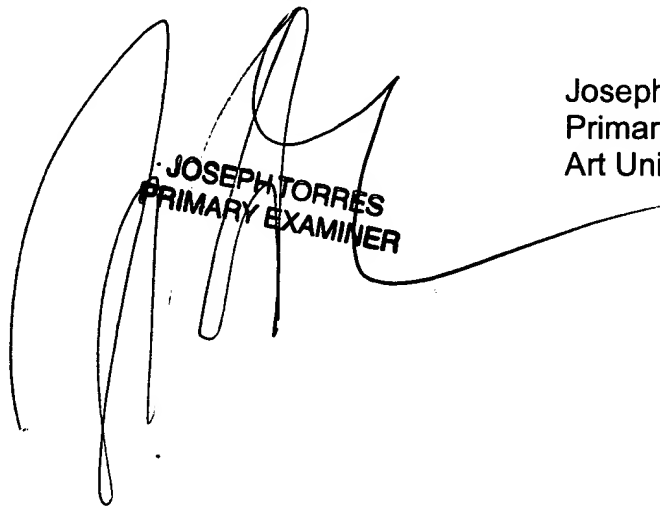
TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph D. Torres whose telephone number is (571) 272-3829. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert Decady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joseph D. Torres, PhD
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2133

JOSEPH TORRES
PRIMARY EXAMINER